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ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

(MINOR SOURCES OF WATER POLLUTION MANAGEMENT BRIEF)

Goal, Product and Progress

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This is the first brief on the Minor Sources of Pollution Management Plan. This management plan addresses those minor sources with the following characteristics:

- They have the potential of causing pollution problems of a particular nature.
- They require detailed analysis that would not be possible if they were part of another management plan.

Listed below are the minor sources being considered:

- septic tanks
- vessel discharges
- dredging operations
- construction erosion
- oil spills
- mining

The objective of this program is to produce a management plan for each of these sources that are found to be causing significant problems. Each plan should have the same characteristics as called for in the goal of the Environmental Management Program.

- It will lead to the greatest possible improvement in water and air quality and problems caused by solid waste, and will lead to compliance with federal and state standards and objectives at the earliest possible date.
- It will not have social, economic, or environmental effects so unacceptable as to prevent implementation.

The water quality standards that apply to these sources are those in the Appendix of the first surface runoff brief.

The approach to developing these plans is as follows:

1. Review existing information about each source and determine its significance relative to other sources.
2. For those sources deemed significant, refine the analysis of the pollution problem.
3. Inventory existing regulations pertaining to the source.
4. Develop alternative management programs.
5. Assess and evaluate each alternative.
6. Choose the best management program.

Work on this program has concentrated on septic tanks and vessel wastes. One



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workshop has been held on septic tanks. It was attended by about 160 people. Septic tank codes have been compiled for all counties. Problem areas have been identified. Most of the problems result from the lack of maintenance of septic tanks.

For vessel wastes, existing regulations have been compiled. Problem areas have been identified. The major problem in the control of vessel wastes is in the enforcement of regulations. The major problem with enforcement is the lack of funds for enforcement.

The problem of vessel wastes is compounded by the following factors:

- diverse ownership of different vessels, from individuals to foreign corporations
- cost to private owners of installing waste holding tanks
- inadequate number of pump-out facilities for these tanks

The final product will be a management plan for each source. It appears that all sources will be found to be significant with the possible exception of mining.

The major features of the septic tank management plan are likely to be as follows:

- uniform codes for the design and construction of septic tanks
- in some areas, the creation of maintenance districts for septic tanks

The major feature of the vessel waste management plan will probably be a mechanism to fund more vigorous enforcement of existing regulations.

There is not yet enough information on the other sources to predict what features their management plans will have.